THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. The pollution control plants of the Khetri Copper Complex are now working satisfactorily.

(b) The Khetri Copper Complex has so far spent an amount of about Rs. 70 crores for installation of pollution control equipment.

(c) and (d) A team from the Central Pollution Control Board visited the plant on 1.3.1994 to assess the pollution problems in the area. The team made certain recommendations regarding the pollution control measures. A notice under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 was also served to the company to comply with the environmental standards within a stipulated time period. Subsequently, the company has taken the necessary pollution control measures, as recommended by the team and are now complying with the prescribed standards.

Proposals for Controlling Forest Related Offices between India and Nepal

1840. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA'
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposals to launch Trans-Boundary Construction Board and Indo-Nepal Border Development Programme submitted by the Uttar Pradesh Government for controlling the forest related offices between India and Nepal have been considered;

(b) if so, the status thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No proposals to launch Trans-Boundary Construction Board and Indo-Nepal Board Development Programme have been submitted to this Ministry by Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Forest Cover in the Country

1841. DR. MOHAN BABU:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of forests in the country, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for reduction in the forest cover; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the land under forest cover?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) The information is contained in the Statement *(See below)*.

(b) The main reasons for reduction of forest cover in the country are increasing demand of forest produce for increasing human and cattle population, shifting cultivation, fire, grazing, illicit cutting, encroachment and lack of required investments in the forestry sector.

(c) Ministry has requested the concerned State/UT Governments to take serious note of the depletion of forest cover and to make an indepth analysis of the factors contributing to the depletion of forest cover, to evolve effective strategy and action programme for arresting the trend so as to increase the forest cover in the coming years. Ministry has also requested Planning Commission and all State/UT Governments for increasing the allocation for forestry sector. Major steps taken for proper preservation of forests and forest wealth are:

(i) Afforestation programme are undertaken by State/UT Governments from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India;

(ii) Externally Aided Projects are being implemented for preservation of forests and forest wealth;

(iii) Guidelines have been issued to all the State/UT Governments to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests through Joint Forest Management;

(iv) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest lands;

(v) A network of protected areas has been established.

Statement

Forest Cover in Various States as Per State of Report, 1997

In Sq.km.

State/UTs	Recorded Forest Area	Recorded Forest Area % of Geographical area	Forest cover 1997 Assesment	Change in comparison to 1995 assessments	Forest cover 1997% of Geographical Area
Andhra Pradesh	63814	23.2	43290	−3822	15.74
Arunachal Pradesh	51540	61.54	68602	−19	81.9
Assam	30708	39.15	23824	−237	30.4
Bihar	29226	16.81	26524	−37	15.3
Delhi	42	2.83	26	—	1.7
Goa	1424	38.46	1252	+5	33.9
Gujarat	19393	9.89	12578	+258	6.4
Haryana	1673	3.78	604	+1	1.4
Himachal Pradesh	35407	63.6	12521	+20	22.5
Jammu & Kashmir	20182	9.08	20440	+7	9.2
Karnataka	38724	20.19	32403	+21	16.9
Kerala	11221	28.87	10334	−2	26.6
Madhya Pradesh	154497	34.84	131195	−3969	29.6
Maharashtra	63842	20.75	46143	−2300	15
Manipur	15154	67.87	17418	−140	78
Meghalaya	9496	42.34	15657	−57	69.8
Mozoram	15935	75.59	18775	−190	89.1
Nagaland	8629	52.04	14221	−70	85.8
Orissa	57184	36.73	46941	−166	30.1
Punjab	2901	5.76	1387	−45	2.8
Sikkim	2650	37.34	3129	+2	44.1
Tamil Nadu	22628	17.4	17064	+19	13.1
Tripura	6292	60.01	5546	+8	52.9
Uttar Pradesh	51663	17.54	33994	+8	11.5
West Bengal	11879	13.38	8349	+73	9.4
A & N Islands	7171	86.93	7613	−2	92.3
Chandigarh	31	27.19	7	—	6.1
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	203	41.34	204	—	41.5
Daman & Diu	NA	NA	3	—	2.7
TOTAL	765210	23.28	633397	—5482	19.27